

Dr. Mariah Ehmke is an associate professor of agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wyoming. She is currently a visiting Senior Lecturer to the University of Otago's economics department. Her work is motivated by the desire to understand food production and consumption with consideration for public health and environmental quality.

Dr. Ehmke grew up on a wheat farm near St. John, Kansas in the United States. At Kansas State University (KSU), she was attracted to the field of human ecology. In 1997, she was the New Zealand Home Science Association scholar to the University of Otago. There, she completed her honour's thesis reviewing the effects of unemployment on Maori New Zealander health under the guidance of Dr. Nancy Devlin. She received her bachelors of science in human ecology from KSU the same year. In 1998, she The Ohio State University (OSU)'s agricultural, environmental, and development economics department's graduate program. She completed her Master's thesis on soil carbon sequestration at The OSU. She commenced doctoral study at Purdue University's agricultural economics department in 2000. As a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Needs Fellow at Purdue, she took advantage of an opportunity to pursue foreign study in Europe. Through exchanges in France, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom, she studied the expansion of European food retailers into Eastern European and developing countries through foreign direct investment. At Purdue, she developed a dissertation research exploring the role of culture on consumer's preferences for food, health and the environment. The research integrated the use of behaviour economic experiments into consumer preference surveys in China, France, Niger and the United States. She was supervised by Drs. Jayson Lusk and Wallace Tyner and named an American Fellow by the American Association of University Women.

Upon receiving her doctorate, Dr. Ehmke began her professorial career at the University of Wyoming. Her professional interests include analysis for health, food, and agricultural policy; behavioural and consumer economics; econometrics and non-parametric statistics; pollinator conservation; climate change; and agribusiness entrepreneurship and management. She regularly teaches an undergraduate agribusiness entrepreneurship course and graduate consumer theory and behaviour course. In 2014 she was recognized by the American Agricultural Economics Association with the President's Award for her service to the organization through mentorship.